

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND REAUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATOR
PREPARATION UNIT AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PREPARED BY: DR. ROBERT MITCHELL, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER FOR
EDUCATOR PREPARATION**

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at Colorado State University.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) considers reauthorization of all educator preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, after receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reauthorization of educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement programs to ensure that the content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements for licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. §22-60.5). Department of Higher Education (DHE) reviews the unit and its programs for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; ongoing advising and screening of educator candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience; and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)]. DHE and CDE then jointly conduct an on-site visit of the unit and its educator preparation programs. CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to DHE. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, DHE makes a recommendation to CCHE.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

At its meeting on March 11, 2015, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the educator preparation programs at Colorado State University. CDE staff transmitted State Board of Education's approval of the following endorsement programs:

- Principal (3.03)
- Early Childhood Education (8.01)
- Elementary Education (8.02)
- Agriculture and Renewable Energy Resources (8.03)
- Art (8.04)
- Business Education (8.05)
- Marketing Education (8.05)
- Instructional Technology Teacher (8.08)
- English Language Arts (8.09)
- Foreign Language (8.10)
- Family and Consumer Studies (8.12)
- Technology Education (8.13)
- Mathematics (8.14)
- Music (8.15)
- Science (8.17)

- Social Studies (8.18)
- Speech (8.19)
- School Occupational Therapist (11.02)
- School Social Worker (11.07)
- School Counselor (11.09)

During the on-site evaluation visit, the reauthorization team noted several strengths and provided recommendations for the educator preparation program at Colorado State University. Specifically, the team noted that the faculty within the CSU educator preparation programs emphasizes faculty accessibility and, as a result, develop highly beneficial relationships with pre-service educators within the various academic departments throughout the institution. In addition, program leadership has made significant gains in faculty recruitment and retention, leading to consistency within the program and developing clear alignment to the needs of students and key partner school districts throughout Colorado. Specific recommendations for the program include: modifying existing coursework and experiences related to educational technology, monitoring program completers post-graduation to validate program effectiveness, and the potential expansion of course offerings to include multicultural endorsement (CLD) opportunities.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission reauthorize the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at Colorado State University.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§23-1-121 C.R.S.: (4) (a) (I) The department, in conjunction with the department of education, shall review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) and shall establish a schedule for review of each educator preparation program that ensures each program is reviewed as provided in this section not more frequently than once every five years.